

Eublemma parva (Hb.) – A fine, fresh, male specimen was taken in my trap on 4 July. It is a specimen with very pale facies and faint markings and would be var. *pallida* Tutt (*vide* Tutt, J.W. *The British Noctuae and their Varieties* Vol. IV: p.11). There are very few records of this species for northern England. Being a small species, it could be readily overlooked – and to the collector of macrolepidoptera could well be mistaken for a “micro”. So, its apparent scarcity may well be only apparent.

Lithophane leautieri ssp. *hesperica* Boursin. A specimen of this was taken in my trap on 2 October. It was one of only two moths in the trap (the other was *Aporophyla nigra* (Haw.)). So far as I know, this is only the second record for *leautieri* in VC69; I understand one was taken in Kendal in October 1996 (W.D. Kydd *pers. comm.*).

While moth numbers in the trap were fewer than usual, social wasps (*Vespula* sp.) were far too numerous, so that sorting the catch was often a hazardous procedure.– NEVILLE L. BIRKETT, Beardwood, Carter Road, Grange-over-Sands LA11 7AG.

Plant-bugs (Hemiptera) on Woolwich Common, south-east London

I was much surprised to sweep an example of the Bishop's Mitre shield-bug *Aelia acuminata* (L.) (Pentatomidae), from low mixed herbage at the edge of a strip of semi-woodland in the above locality on 19 September 1998. Officially, this grass-feeding species is no rarity; it may be, or may have been, common enough in some other parts of the country, but this is only the second specimen I have met with, and the first was not here.

Another pentatomid, the striking *Eurydema oleracea* (L.) – already recorded from here in this journal (Allen, 1992: 79-80; 1994: 30) – may be mentioned here on account of the plant on which it occurred. The usual host on Woolwich Common is horseradish *Armoracia*, but on 19 May 1999 one was brushed off hoary pepperwort *Cardaria draba*, which grew in thick masses at the spot. I have no doubt that this is a foodplant; there was no *Armoracia* nearby and in fact it had scarcely begun to appear above ground.

On the same day an example of *Rhopalus subrufus* (Gmel.) (Rhopalidae) was swept from a variety of low plants. Its most usual host, *Hypericum*, was nowhere near. This too is regarded as a common bug, but certainly cannot be so now in the London area, where I had never before seen it. Close by, the coreid *Coriomeris denticulatus* (Scop.) was on its chief foodplant *Medicago lupulina*, as rather often in previous years.

Also in evidence was the curious small hopper *Asiraca clavicornis* (F.) (Delphacidae). This grass-feeder used to be considered a very local rarity, but has proved to be far from uncommon in my district.– A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.